DOCUMENT RESUME

AC 002 916

ED 022 142

By-Hamilton-Smith, Elery; And Others

RURAL YOUTH WORK IN AUSTRALIA.

Pub Date 64

Note-30p.; In PROCEEDINGS OF AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND, ARMIDALE, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 4-18, 1964)

EDRS Price MF-$0.25 HC-$1.28

Descriptors-*ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION, *COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES, EXTENSION EDUCATION, NATIONAL SURVEYS, *PROGRAM PLANNING, *RURAL AREAS, *YOUTH CLUBS

Identifiers-*Australia

In a report of seminar proceedings, papers are presented on the formation, aims, structure, and organizational relationships of community youth clubs in rural areas of Victoria, Australia; and on the origins, structure, staffing, and overall characteristics and problems of Australian rural youth clubs. An interim group report also defines the objectives and principles which play a major role in meeting the needs of rural youth, together with administrative and other arrangements for program improvement. Useful topics for ongoing research are suggested. (ly)

RURAL YOUTH WORK IN AUSTRALIA.

THE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB IN RURAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN VICTORIA

by ELERY HAMILTON-SMITH

Introduction.

As the Community Youth Club or Open Youth Club movement has not developed an integrated organization in some parts of Australia, it is first necessary to provide a brief description of the type of movement and organization which will be discussed in this paper. Each Club is established and conducted wholly by an independent committee of citizens elected by their own community. The aim of the Club is seen as being to provide for the more effective social and personal development of members, and the basis of programming to be one of providing the opportunities for the Club members to plan and conduct their own programmes. Considerable emphasis is placed upon freedom and upon the assumption of responsibility by members, while the leader's role is seen as being one of guidance and support, rather than planning and organization.

In three states of Australia, as well as in many other countries, these Clubs have formed together into a unified Association, but in all cases, retaining local autonomy. Although originally called 'open' Youth Clubs, and in fact this name persists in Britain in particular, the term 'Community' Youth Club has come to be more favored in both Australia and in Asian countries. This is felt to be more expressive of the true nature of the Club, as well as providing a stronger link to other aspects of Community development.

The local autonomy of Clubs, designed to provide for flexibility in meeting specific local needs, and often, indeed, proving its value in this way, also presents problems. Some Clubs, because of lack of skill on the part of available adult leadership, or because of a lack of understanding of the generally accepted principles of the movement, fall short of the original aim, and offer little more than formalized and adult-dominated training in physical activities. Others provide mass entertainment, with no stimulation to more effective programming nor encouragement to members to take responsibility within the affairs of the Club. These problems will be further discussed at later stages in this paper but at this point, it

ED 021 142
AC 002 916

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

is of interest to note that these are the Clubs most likely to become selfish in their outlook as isolated from other aspects of community life.

The Process of Development of a New Club.

Although always subject, of course, to individual variation, new Clubs have tended to adopt the pattern of development suggested by the central Association, and, in Victoria, formalized into a series of steps which are set out in the booklet, Forming a Youth Club. This formalization has been found invaluable in that it firstly provides opportunity for careful consideration of the appropriate patterns for the Club and secondly helps avoid the setting up of a Club by a pressure group when this is not justified by community needs.

In the first instance a person contemplating the setting up of a Youth Club will usually contact either the Association office or an existing Club, which will usually refer the enquiry to the Association staff. In preliminary discussion with the interested person or group, the Association endeavours to clarify the nature of the Community Youth Club and encourages the enquiring party to follow the steps set down as a guide for development. An outline is also provided at this point to enable a survey to be made of the community so that not only the needs for further youth activity can be gauged, but also the resources available to help meet these needs.

At this point, the Association helps in discussion and appraisal of the survey results. In some cases this will indicate that a Club is either not needed or is not the most appropriate way of meeting the current needs of the community. In others, the survey may indicate the possibility of setting up a teen-age Club entirely conducted by its own members, but this is only possible where suitable premises are available, where there appears to be a unified group of adolescents available to form the nucleus of the Club, and where the right type of adult leadership also appears. Typically, the need appears to form a Club, but further community support must be developed in order to provide premises and leadership. In this case, the survey group is encouraged to plan a broad public meeting to which they will present the results of their survey and the proposal that steps be taken to establish a Club.

In most communities, it is necessary that this meeting be limited to appointment of a wider committee to investigate the proposal and to examine ways and means. However, in a small community with effective and widespread channels of

communication, this meeting may actually inaugurate the Club. More often, a broader investigatory committee is appointed, which develops further community interest and support and takes preliminary steps towards the acquisition of suitable premises and recruitment of personnel. The work of this investigatory committee will then probably culminate in the calling of a final meeting to establish the Club and elect its committee of management for the first year.

Relationship between the individual Club and the Association.

In general terms, it can be said that the Association has no power of control over any Club, and exists only to provide advice or services. For our present purposes, it is important to analyse this relationship more closely.

During the process of Club formation, the Association endeavours to encourage and assist grass-roots development, placing as few restrictions as possible upon this. The guidance provided places emphasis upon ensuring that:

1. No Club is formed unless justified by community needs.

2. That any Club formed has wide community support and is not merely an expression of one section of the community.

3. That the programme of any Club formed is based upon providing for the development of young people at a level of optimum effectiveness.

Once established, the Club may apply for membership of the Association. Services available to Clubs in membership (and in many cases to those still in the early stages of consolidation) include training of leaders and other personnel; on-the-spot advice on the conduct of the Club from the point of view of both leadership and administration; joint activities with other Clubs; legal, architectural and other technical advisory services; a library for leaders; and others. Members of the Association staff develop and maintain a consultative relationship with Club personnel. An effort is made to establish minimum standards of work by the publication of handbooks on standards in Club work as a guide to Clubs, but every effort is made to phrase these sufficiently broadly to provide wide scope for local autonomy in matching Club programme to community needs. Leaders are not at any time provided with pre-fabricated programmes, but are trained to make their own evaluation of members' interests and needs, then to guide their

members in the development of their own programmes.

From the viewpoint of member Clubs, the problems in this relationship probably are two - firstly, the pressure of work on members of the Association staff is such that too little time is available to individual clubs. Secondly, the help given by the Association is often not as clearly structured as some volunteer personnel demand, or is perhaps even in conflict with their own attitudes towards young people.

The latter problem also looms large from the point of view of the Association, whose philosophy emphasises the freedom and responsibility of Club members. Many local committees see the role of the Club as being to pass on the values, traditions and skills of the older generation to the younger, rather than to provide the chance for the younger generation to experiment in the assumption of responsibility for their own thoughts and actions. Barnes (1945) has expressed this by saying:

> "The stress is still on honour, loyalty, and obedience - so much more soothing to the adult world than the yapping and scampering of puppies at the heels of truth."

The various aspects of this matter of the concept of the Club's role in the socialization of young people has been more fully discussed by the present author in another paper.

It is perhaps of interest to note at this point that this philosophy which has been widely adopted by the Community Youth Club Movement since the war years is similar to the philosophy of youth movements in the sense proposed by Holzner (1962). He defines youth movements as those which explicitly or implicity affirm the value of youth in itself and which emphasise the potential and freedom of youth. He suggests that such movements arise out of certain patterns of social change, especially those in which the traditional mechanism of socialization become inadequate and the structural consistency between the institutional systems is reduced. The great expansion of the Youth Club movement since the war years, considered in the light of the accelerating social changes about us, perhaps offers some confirmation of his hypothesis.

Other aspects of the relationship between the Club in rural areas and the Association are the two very important factors of the development of regional

organization and the organization of informal contacts with other Clubs throughout the State. The first arose spontaneously in one area, and has been fostered by the Association in others. Clubs within a rural area are given the opportunity to gather at a common meeting place at intervals, to arrange joint activities, and to assist each other with common problems. Regional boundaries have been established to coincide with those established by the Central Planning Authority of the State Government, in the hope that this will foster the link with other aspects of Community Development. It is of interest to note that such organization has not proved to be so effective in the metropolitan area where the level of co-operation and unity between Clubs is much less.

Three years ago, an assessment of the Association's programme in relationship to the social needs of the community as a whole highlighted the fact that a large proportion of young people in rural areas will inevitably move to the metropolis for at least a certain period of their life, usually during their adolescent years. It was also clear that for many of the young people concerned, this is a difficult adjustment, and many fail to adjust smoothly to the new environment. As a pilot project to endeavour to help young people in preparation for this adjustment, a scheme was inaugurated by which individual members of rural Clubs might come to the city for a weekend, during which time they would be billeted with the family of a Club member in the metropolitan area and so establish friendship contacts in the metropolis. During the last year over 1,000 young people participated in this scheme, also offering hospitality in return to their metropolitan friends.

Structure of the Community Youth Club.

Although considerable local variation exists, Club structure generally follows one of two patterns. The first is that where the membership consists entirely of teenagers and the management of the Club completely in the hands of a teenage committee. Experience has shown that such a Club with a respected adult advisor will be stable and effective, but will rarely maintain any stability without such an advisor. However, the important component of the advisor's role appears to be that of providing emotional support and encouragement to the Club. If the adult concerned assumes a more directive role, then again the Club usually fails.

The second consists of an adult committee of management, which assumes responsibility for the overall management of the Club, the provision of facilities, and the recruitment of leaders. The adult leaders so appointed will assume

responsibility for all aspects of the Club programme, often in partnership with a members' committee.

Relationship between the Club and its own Community.

Although every effort is made to ensure that the adult committee elected to establish a Community Youth Club is truly representative, many Clubs fail to maintain effective communication or co-operation with other community organizations. As already noted, this appears to be much stronger in the Club which is managed by a committee of adolescents. The breakdown in liaison appears to stem from the battle between organizations to each obtain the largest slice from the cake of community resources available to accomplish their joint task. Perhaps there is also a tradition of competition firmly established in our society.

The relationships with other bodies occur on many levels. The simplest is that of joint membership providing for ready communication and easier co-operation. This may be a joint membership on the part of the committee members, providing, for example, ready liaison with the Apex Club. On the other hand, it may be joint membership on the part of Club members, leading to joint activities with other youth groups in the area. Although such joint membership appears just as common in cities as in small rural areas, it also appears that co-operation on this level is much easier and more effective in the smaller community.

Other forms of inter-organizational collaboration do certainly occur, but are not common in the adult-controlled Club. Various bodies may co-operate in major fund-raising schemes, various youth organizations may join in a combined display or publicity drive, the Youth Club may join with, say, the Apex Club in a community service effort, or arrangements may be made for joint occupancy of a building.

Recent years have, however, seen a rapidly growing interest on the part of Community Youth Clubs in community service. This includes the joining in a major local appeal, for instance to build a swimming pool or a hospital; providing a labour force for local tasks in conjunction with community service clubs or even the local municipal council; making a special effort to raise funds for other organizations; or joining in such general scheme as the blood bank donor scheme. Here much of the lead has been set by teen-age controlled Clubs or by members' committees, but other Clubs have followed suit. One side-effect of this has been the introduction of young people in the Youth Club to such organizations as Apex, into which they

may well move in future years. Another has been that now two Clubs are considering the setting up of a special community service club from their own ex-members, who wish to continue working together as a mixed-sex organization, but who cannot do this within the framework of existing organizations.

Some comments on the special features of the Community Youth Club in the Rural Community.

Perhaps one of the particular features of the rural community is the lower number of socializing mechanisms available to the young person and the narrower horizons within which he or she may develop. This firstly has implications for the pattern which is likely to develop in the Community Youth Club (or indeed, probably in many other youth organizations) and secondly has programming implications both for the local Club and for the Association as a whole.

In a rural setting the Community Youth Club is often a stable and extremely effective body in terms of holding member interest and providing for the progressive development of members. It is able to more readily develop a membership group with strong primary group feeling and high morale. Leadership is more often at an appropriate level than in urban communities - it usually consists of a mature and far-sighted local citizen who acts as leader with the attitude "I don't know anything about Club leadership, but the kids need someone to help them out in running the Club" Opposed to this, urban Clubs are all too often 'helped' by enthusiasts who are sure that they know what is good for young people and are determined to teach it to them. Barriers in communication between age-groups appear to be less in the rural areas, so that not only does a better relationship exist between Club members and adults, but between the various age-groups represented in the Club membership.

In programming, there appears to be a need to assist young people in these areas to widen their own horizons and to keep pace with those social changes which are breaking down the former isolation of rural communities. The scheme to provide for personal contacts with other Club members in the metropolis has been mentioned above and needs little further comment, except perhaps to mention our surprise on finding the large proportion of young people who have visited Melbourne for the first time through this scheme. Similarly, efforts are made to provide contacts with young people from overseas and to arrange for them to visit Clubs or Club members.

References.

BARNES, L.J., Youth Service in an English County, King George Jubilee Trust, 1945.

HAMILTON-SMITH, E., The Effectiveness of Youth Clubs in Relation to their Perceived Role, paper to ANZAAS Congress, Canberra, January, 1964.

HOLZNER, B., Institutional Change, Social Stratification, and the Direction of Youth Movements, J. Educ. Sociol., 36, 49-56, 1962.

Victorian Association of Youth Club Publications.

Forming a Youth Club (2nd edn. 1962).

District Survey Outline.

A model constitution for a Community Youth Club (revd.1964).

Standards in Community Youth Club Work: 1. Aims & Policy.

Annual Reports of the Association, esp. 1959-1963.

YOUTH IN THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL COMMUNITY

by KEITH GILES

History.

In nearly every country of the world we have rural youth groups of one kind or another and they nearly all play the dual role of providing fellowship and education.

Rural School Clubs.

As early as 1913 Queensland recorded a project club catering for school children between the ages of 10 to 15 years. New South Wales was not long in following suit and by 1928 a group in this state decided to cater for the post school children. This led to the establishment of the first Junior Farmer club. It is interesting to note that Queensland now has some 1,700 school project clubs, whereas New South Wales has incorporated this age group into their Junior Farmer Programme.

Post School Clubs.

Western Australia followed New South Wales in the establishment of post school clubs and by the beginning of World War 11 they had 35 clubs. All states established clubs soon after World War 11 and there are now some 1,000 clubs and 30,000 members throughout Australia. Four states have used the name Junior Farmers, Victoria Senior Young Farmers, and South Australia Rural Youth.

Membership.

With the exception of New South Wales, where age range is 10 to 25 years, membership is limited to the 15 to 25 year age group. In all but one state the only criteria for membership is club acceptance. New South Wales is the deviant and it specifies that a member must do a project. This all means that members can be from any walk in life, boys or girls, and be rural or urban dwellers.

Aims

Although the movements started in different states the general aims are very much the same Here are two examples of state aims:

1 "To conserve and develop our natural resources (both physical and human) through the application of the findings of the research worker, the experimentalist, and the technician against a rural background, recognising the dignity of labour and the dignity of the human person" (N.S.W.).

2 "To achieve the highest standard of citizenship and rural living". (Q.).

Organisation.

The pattern of organisation is similar in all states. There is a Government financed sponsoring body and a member organisation. The most important difference between states is the member representation at state level.

All states belong to three interstate organisations: the Australian Rural Youth Foundation, the Australian Council of Young Farmers, and the inter-state Junior Farmer Conference.

For the purposes of this paper I am going to describe the Western Australian organisation and make comparison where necessary, and then discuss the role of the Australian Council and the Foundation.

Western Australian Organisation.

There are two organisations responsible for the development of Junior Farmer Clubs in Western Australia:

1. The Junior Farmers' Movement Council - a statutory body responsible to the Minister for Education, and

2. The West Australian Federation of Junior Farmers' Clubs - an incorporated organisation in which Junior Farmer members are autonomous.

Flow Chart 1 shows the intricate relationship between the two organisations. The three senior office bearers of the Federation are on all committees except the staff meetings. This identifies the members with the sponsoring body at all levels. The Executive Director is on all state committees and this assures effective communication at all times.

The Junior Farmer Movement Council has no jurisdiction over the Federation. It limits its activities to the extension service.

Such an organisation permits the implementation of two important principles:

a. That the policies and programmes of the Federation shall be self-determined; and

b. That all activities and programmes, irrespective of source, shall be subject to voluntary acceptance.

This means that the functioning of the Federation depends entirely upon democratic leadership and all decision making is the prerogative of the members.

The Extension Programme.

The two most difficult problems in the extension programme are:

1. The level of member education, and

2. The lack of time.

1. The level of education: the average education of members is third year high school or ten years at school. This is at least a year less than his urban colleague. But whereas the urban youth can continue his education through technical school and part-time courses, the rural youth's education stops on leaving school unless there is an opportunity for informal education. This is the role of the Junior Farmers' Extension Service.

2. The lack of time: most clubs meet once a fortnight and have two effective hours for educational pursuits, making a total of some 44 hours a year allowing for holidays. This is quite inadequate to implement a diversified but worthwhile education

programme so that the Junior Farmers resort to:

a. Extra club activities such as field days and demonstrations;

b. Residential schools either at club, regional, or state level from one day to a week's duration; and

c. Private and group study.

With careful planning the three methods can be used jointly.

One of the most important roles of the Extension Service is to teach Junior Farmers to teach themselves. The relatively low school leaving age means that by far the majority of members have a very low acceptance rate for informal education. This experience led to the conclusion that with suitable training and effectively prepared material rural youth could use programme material at the adult level. In other words the informal teaching methods had to be used to best advantage.

Further to this it was shown that the "organiser" role played by many youth leaders could be replaced by member organisers if they received suitable training.

Extension staff.

This led to the decision of the council that extension officers shall be appointed to administer a region but their main role is teaching in special subject areas. For this reason all extension staff must have a training at least equivalent to a senior master in a high school or an agricultural adviser - that is, a minimum of a bachelor's degree and one year's post graduate training at an approved University. There are still serious short-comings in this training so that one of our main problems is to develop suitable post-graduate and in-training for staff.

The subject areas covered by the Extension Service are:

1. Agronomy;

2. Animal production;

3. Home development;

4. Cultural activities such as drama, music, poetry, and literature;

5. The humanities.

An extension officer is in charge of each of these subject areas.

The extension officer-member ratio in Western Australia is 1 to 400. In some states it is as low as 1 to 200, while in others it is as high as 1 to 650 members.

To overcome this high member-staff ratio Western Australia is contemplating part-time qualified staff to assist with the more advanced programmes.

Education methods.

One of our early findings was the relatively low acceptance rate of projects and, as with most rural youth movements, the project seemed to be part of the deal. It was soon found that the project was very useful in some circumstances, but the most important criteria to use when building up programmes was to use the teaching technique which best suited the subject and the member concerned. A wide range of techniques are now used such as lectures, demonstrations, group discussion, the package deal, seminars, visual aids, mass media, library facilities, projects, formal courses and private study.

Wherever possible an adult adviser or "tutor" is appointed to assist in any programme whether it is for an individual, a group or a club.

Problems.

We have no objective assessment of our acceptance rates, but we do know that our problems are considerable. Some of the more important ones are:

a. Only 20% of rural youth are members.

b. The "drop-out" is much greater than it should be.

c. Our leadership training could be much more effective.

d. Our teaching methods are not as effective as they could be; and

e. On leaving us the acceptance rate for adult education in its many forms is relatively low.

On the positive side, however, we do know that the acceptance rate of adult education for ex-Junior Farmers is higher than for other groups, and a large proportion of the community leadership functions are now being carried out by ex-members. Let us hope that this means that we are on the right track.

Other States.

The story is not very different for other states. The main variations are the subject areas covered, the intensity of extension work and the degree to which members are identified with their own movements. They have their successes and their shortcomings as we do in Western Australia.

The Australian Council of Young Farmers.

In 1960 the states decided to make a concerted effort to find some of the answers to their mutual problems. This decision was made at the annual Conference of the Australian Council of Young Farmers.

The Australian Council is made up of two members from each state, a member of the Department of Primary Industries and the Australian Broadcasting Commission. Its aims and objects are to promote rural youth clubs throughout Australia and administer any policies or programming that may be decided upon from time to time.

The Australian Rural Youth Foundation.

To implement the Council's 1960 decision two major steps were taken:

1. To establish a Foundation to undertake:
   (a) Research,
   (b) Education, and
   (c) Any other activities which may be helpful in solving our problems; and

2. To re-organise our activities at the Commonwealth level to enable members to identify themselves with programming and prevent duplication of duties. (See Flow Chart 11)

Features of this plan are:

1. The integration of the existing Interstate Junior Farmer Conference with overall plan;

2. An inter-state organisation, the A.C.Y.F., to determine and administer policy;

3. A separate organisation, the Foundation, to undertake research and education; and

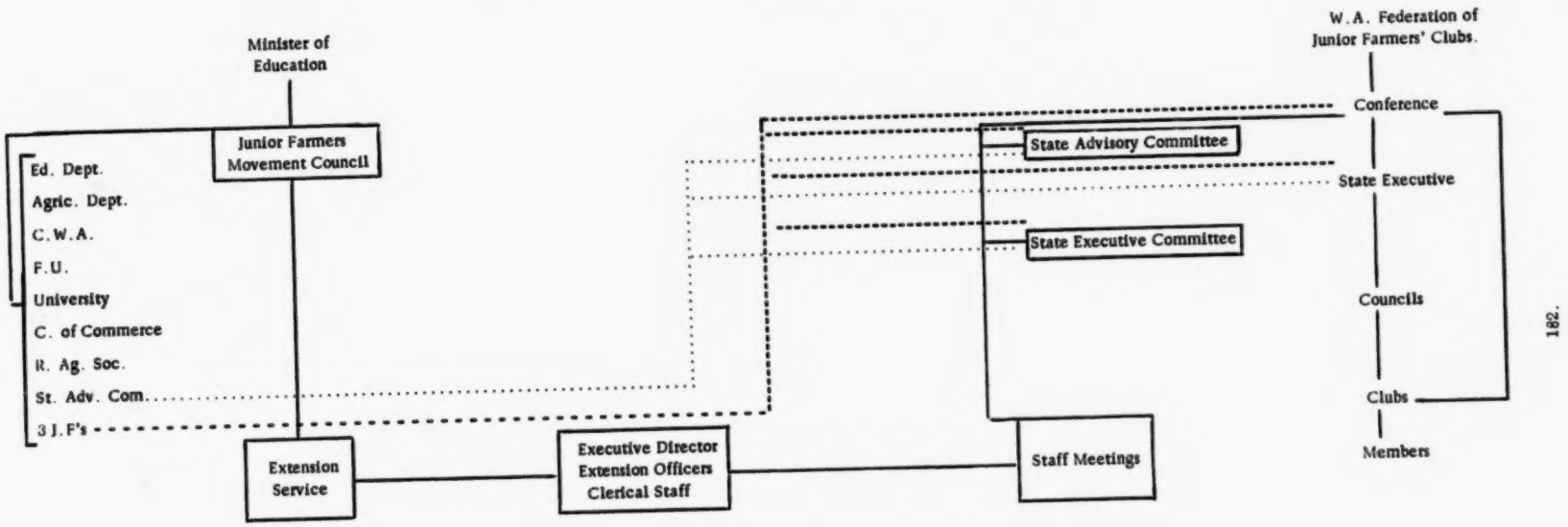
4. Arranging meeting dates and membership of the various organisations to keep overheads to a minimum.

The preliminary survey.

We are now undertaking stage one of our overall programme. The first donation of £2,000 to the Foundation was presented by Ampol and used to finance a six week preliminary survey by Dr. Harold Baker of the University of Saskatchewan. The aim of this survey is to report and advise on ways and means of developing rural youth work throughout Australia.

We are all looking forward to receiving Dr. Baker's results. Until then the upper-most question in our mind is "Where do we go from here?"

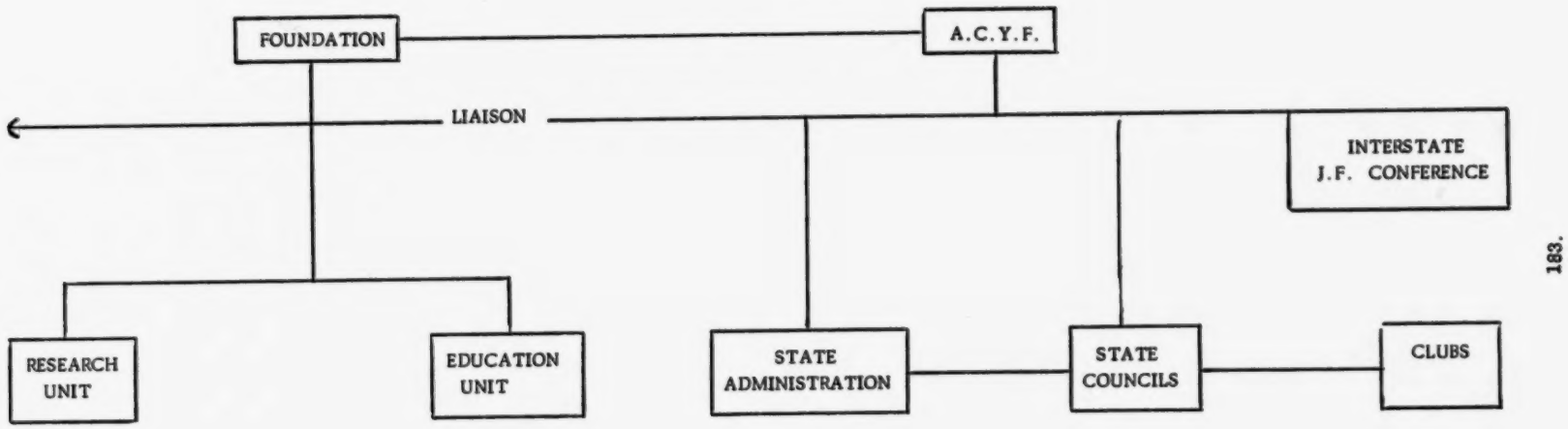
FLOW CHART 1.



FEATURES:

1. The W.A. Federation of J.F. Clubs is autonomous.
2. The Junior Farmer Movement Council has three Junior Farmer members.
3. The three senior Junior Farmer state office bearers are on all committees except staff meetings.
4. The Executive-Director is on all committees including Conference and State Executive.

FLOW CHART 11.



"YOUTH IN THE RURAL COMMUNITY"

THE INTERIM REPORT OF GROUP 3

A. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the University of New England for the generous invitation to participate in the University's International Seminar on Community Development. Special thanks must be given to Mr. A.J.A. Nelson, the Director of Extension, not only as convener, director and host for the Seminar, but also as friend and informal consultant over a number of years.

We are both grateful and indebted to Ampol Petroleum Limited for the generous inaugural donation of £2,000 to our Foundation. With this grant we were able to finance the visit of Dr. Harold R. Baker, Director of Extension, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, to act as our consultant for the Seminar and subsequently to advise on ways and means of promoting and developing rural youth movements throughout Australia.

We extend special thanks to Dr. Baker for the outstanding contribution he has made. His visit marks a new era in the development of Australian Rural Youth Movements.

D.K. GILES
Chairman
Australian Rural Youth Foundation

B. PREAMBLE

Rural Youth clubs in Australia have gained impetus since World War 11 with rapid increases in the number of clubs and the scope of their interests.

Although the movements started in different states, the general philosophy is very much the same. Here are two examples of State aims:

1. "To conserve and develop our natural resources (both physical and human) through the application of the findings of the research worker, the experimentalist, and the technician against a rural background, recognising the dignity of labour and the

dignity of the human person".

(N.S.W.)

2. "To achieve the highest standard of citizenship and rural living."

(Q.)

The first Junior Farmers' Clubs, as we know them now, were formed in New South Wales in 1928. Since that time there has been steady progress until today there are 1,000 clubs and 25,000 members throughout Australia.

Membership is open to youth of both sexes, irrespective of nationality, creed, politics, occupation or place of residence and caters for the age group between 15 and 25 years, except in New South Wales where the minimum age is 10 years.

It has been agreed that in this context it is difficult to define "rural", since the Organisations concerned cater for :

a. those who live on farms, and will remain there;

b. those who live on farms, but who eventually will leave the land;

c. those who live in towns, but who are interested in farms or are associated with services to farms;

d. urban youth in agricultural or related industries;

e. other urban youth;

f. those in special categories - e.g. mining and fishing centres, migratory seasonal-worker youth, and those isolated geographically.

The pattern of organisation is similar in all states. There is a Government financed sponsoring body and a member organisation. All States belong to three interstate organisations, the Australian Rural Youth Foundation, the Australian Council of Young Farmers and the Interstate Junior Farmer Conference. Each State is autonomous in its own right but realises the advantages of co-operation at the Australian level.

This Seminar is the first objective attempt to identify, correlate and define the principles used in Rural Youth Work throughout Australia.

C. AIM OF RURAL YOUTH SEMINAR GROUP.

The aim of the rural youth group was to define those aims, objects and principles which play a major role in meeting the needs of rural youth in Australia and to discuss ways and means of ensuring that future programmes are based on factual and current information.

In establishing common goals for all States the Group will provide valuable information at all levels of rural youth activity. The results will be used by Dr. Baker during his subsequent visit to all States. Dr. Baker's final recommendations to the Australian Rural Youth Foundation will be independent of the Group results.

D METHODS.

A variety of informal workshop techniques was used throughout to arrive at the Seminar conclusions. For most deliberations all members met in a single group but on some occasions the Group was divided. At times three sub-groups discussed the topic separately and subsequently collated them at a full meeting. At other times the rural youth and professional members met in separate sub-groups. All sub-group reports were collated and approved by the full Group.

A chairman and a reporter were appointed for the duration of the Seminar while the group leader was appointed daily.

Dr. Baker was the Group's consultant. In addition to playing the resource role his skillful questions ensured that the Group had explored every phase of the discussion.

E SEMINAR RESULTS.

The Seminar results are presented as defined by the Group. Further elaboration is not necessary, as the material will be of excellent value for further discussion at all levels of rural youth activity.

(i) Needs. Some of the more important needs of rural youth were:

A. Knowledge of the principles in areas such as good health, the machinery of democratic processes, social values, educational opportunities and their relation

to living, economics, world affairs, community services, home and family, parent-youth relationship, recreation and cultural opportunities, the nature of the community, credit resources, production techniques, marketing methods, leadership, volunteer participation and club resources.

B. Skills in areas such as self expression and communication, resourcefulness, effective time utilisation, group living, poise, vocational competency, study techniques, leadership and participation, human relations, and club procedures.

C. Desirable attitudes in areas such as personal identification, freedom of role experimentation, desire to learn and improve abilities, appreciation of parents, competition and equality, relationships with the opposite sex, personality and happy living.

(ii) Aim: To encourage and assist rural youth to become self-reliant, responsible and effective citizens.

(iii) Objectives:

1. To provide opportunities for learning and applying the principles of democratic leadership.

2. To promote the acquisition of knowledge and skills in agriculture, home-making and other vocations.

3. To organise activities which engender co-operative action.

4. To provide incentives and facilities for self-expression.

5. To stimulate interest in civic affairs and the processes of government.

6. To adopt at all levels effective group methods of problem solving and decision making.

7. To stimulate interests which may be beneficial to the use of leisure time.

8. To preserve all that is good in our Australian way of life and promote those cultural pursuits which will enrich it.

The Group has given careful consideration to the methods by which the principles and aims of rural youth movements may be implemented. It was agreed that the methods should be related directly to the principles and objectives. Details of the lists of methods are not included in this report, since it was considered that these are matters which more appropriately could be compiled by the individual States in the light of their special requirements and facilities available. However, as an indication of the type of methods suggested, the following is given as an example:

Objective: To promote the acquisition of knowledge and skills in agriculture, home making, and other vocations.

Methods suggested:
(a) Carrying out of individual and club projects;
(b) Conducting Schools of Instruction;
(c) Organising Field Days and Achievement Days, Shows, demonstrations, workshops;
(d) Use of visual aids, club libraries;
(e) Use of talks, forums, quiz sessions;
(f) Excursions and tours.

(iv) Structural Framework: The Group considered at some length the structural framework within which the aim and objectives might best be put into operation. A set of general principles for such a framework was agreed upon as follows, using the member as the basic unit:

1. Member: The member is the most important unit to whom our efforts are directed.

2. Clubs should be autonomous at the Club level within the framework of the Constitution (of the respective States); they should be responsible for their own programmes and activities, how they shall be carried out, and ready to face the outcome of decisions. Rights of individual members should be protected in that the expulsion of members should not be the responsibility of any one person.

3. Advisory Committees: All Clubs should have some form of advisory committee (of adults), which similarly should be autonomous within the framework of the Constitution.

4. Higher Councils (known in different States as District Councils, Divisional Councils, Group Councils, Zone Councils, Zone Conferences) should act in a co-ordinating capacity, and should have concern for the Clubs within their jurisdiction. These Councils

also should be autonomous.

5. State Governing Bodies should include a majority of duly elected rural youth member representatives with full voting power.

6. General:

   (a) All levels of decision making within the Organisation should be clearly stated.

   (b) All levels of decision making should be adequately informed, and cognisance taken of opinions expressed at all levels, before a final decision affecting the majority of members is made.

7. Representative rural youth members from all States should have a continuing opportunity of meeting at a National level to discuss matters of common interest.

8. Representatives of Australian rural youth Organisations should have a continuing opportunity of meeting at a National level to discuss matters of common interest.

9. All rural youth programmes should be based on factual and current information.

10. Research should be promoted at all levels and should be independent of organisational administration.

(v) Role of the Professional Staff Member: It was considered that the professional staff member should fulfil the role of an educator. In this context it is understood that his role will be:

1. To educate rural youth members;

2. To involve people in the educational programme;

3. To plan and initiate educational programmes;

4. To evaluate the effectiveness of the educational programme and provide "feed-back";

5. To administer the machinery necessary to implement educational programmes at all levels;

6. To train other people involved in the educational process;

7. To interpret to the community the objectives and philosophy of rural youth movements;

8. To maintain the closest possible personal liaison with members and clubs.

Besides the role of the professional worker careful consideration should be given to the relationship between rural youth and other inter-related bodies. Examples of these are government departments, other education services, co-operating agencies, sponsors, volunteer leaders, specialist services, the inter-state organisation and the community.

It was stressed that in all of the foregoing roles the important person in the programme of education is the learner, and that the efforts of the staff member should be directed towards him.

(vi) The Role of Rural Youth Members in the Community: It was considered that rural youth clubs should be open to all young people between the age limits specified in the Constitution of the respective State organisations; and that clubs should encourage membership of all such young people.

The Club should be an integral part of the whole community in which it is established.

1. It is the responsibility of the Club to encourage the members to take an active part in community affairs;

2. It is the responsibility of the Club to interpret to the community the objectives and philosophy of the rural youth movement;

3. Clubs may initiate development within the community by group discussion on community affairs, and presenting ideas to local organisations.

The individual member should interest himself in community affairs by:

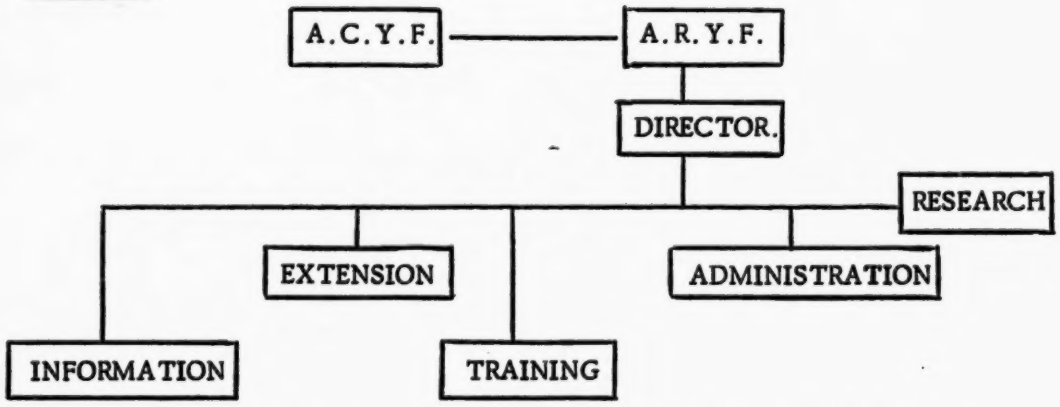
1. Taking an active part in other community organisations;

2. Taking an interest in local government;

3. Initiating an awareness of public needs in the community.

(vii) Organisation at National Level: It is recommended that the Constitution of the Australian Rural Youth Foundation be altered or amended where necessary to provide for the establishment of a structure as outlined hereunder, and to include the under-mentioned objectives:

Structure:



(It was considered that the Director and his "set-up" might be established at an appropriate university.)

Objectives:

1. To collect, collate, and disseminate, to all levels, relevant information;
2. To plan and implement training programmes which will meet the needs of the States;
3. To facilitate and co-ordinate, at all levels, research programmes;
4. To co-ordinate activities conducted by permissive member States;
5. To undertake the secretarial duties associated with activities at the national level;
6. To be an agent for Australian rural youth as represented in the Australian Council of Young Farmers.

These proposed objectives are deemed desirable to meet the needs of members of dynamic and rural youth organisations which are functioning in an ever changing society.

The proposed objectives and this structural arrangement are deemed desirable and, in the case of the structure, necessary to enable the respective participating organisations to function more effectively at all levels, more particularly as member organisations of a dynamic national movement.

It is recommended further

1. That the Interstate Conference of Junior Farmers shall consist of three duly elected members from each State and, if possible, one to be a girl; and that this Conference be represented on the Australian Council of Young Farmers;

2. That a Committee consisting of each of the senior professional officers from each State meet as and when determined; (that this Committee be known as the Standing Committee on Rural Youth) that the functions of the Committee include deliberation of any matters deemed relevant, and to act in an advisory capacity to the Director on matters of direct concern to the professional staff.

Subsequently it was recommended that one of the matters relative to the role of the professional staff member is the need for investigation into the relationship between the demands upon his time and energies, and the reasonable requirements for living a satisfactory personal life. (This recommendation arose from a discussion on the location of the staff member in relationship to his geographical area of duties; time spent at meetings and other functions on week nights, weekends, and public holidays; frequency and duration of absence from his home; recreation and compensatory leave).

Uniformity of Name: The Group considered that it is desirable that all State organisations have a common name. It was felt that action should be taken to bring about the adoption by all states of a common name as at July 1, 1966.

The name was then discussed and it was recommended that this should be Rural Youth but it was also suggested that consideration should be given to a name without a purely rural connotation - e.g. 4A Clubs. It was pointed out that this may help with international identification.

(ix) On-going Research: The Group gave some consideration to on-going research which may be of general assistance to rural youth movements. At this juncture no specific recommendations were made, but it was considered that some fields might include matters relative to the following:

1. Differences between rural and urban youth;
2. Effectiveness of programme methods (to include mass media, drop-out and turnover);
3. Demographic movements in rural movements;
4. Values of youth - how to measure, and their relationship to adult values;
5. Attitude changes - how most effectively measured;
6. Most effective role of the professional staff member;
7. Qualifications necessary to play this role (in No. 6);
8. Age variation and effectiveness of adult leadership;
9. Effect of strongly-structured group situations;
10. Rural youth club member potential;
11. The role of incentives;
12. Government sponsorship of rural youth movements.

APPENDIX: MEMBERSHIP

The following members constituted the group dealing with

Youth in the Rural Community

CONSULTANT:

Dr. Harold R. Baker,
Director of Extension,
University of Saskatchewan,
SASKATOON. CANADA.

MEMBERS:

D.K Giles (Chairman),
President,
Australian Rural Youth Foundation,
156, Hay Street,
SUBIACO. PERTH. WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

W. Tearle (Reporter),
State Organiser,
Junior Farmers Clubs' Council of N.S.W.
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

J. Mortimer,
State Counciller,
Junior Farmers Clubs' Council of N.S.W.,
Cranebrook Road,
CRANEBROOK. (Via Penrith), N.S.W.

E. Hamilton-Smith,
Development Officer,
Victorian Association of Youth Clubs,
Gisborne Street,
EAST MELBOURNE, C.2. VICTORIA

H J. Keys,
Deputy State Secretary,
Senior Young Farmers of Victoria,
C/- Royal Agricultural Society,
Showgrounds,
ASCOT VALE. VICTORIA.

G. Forster,
Immediate-past State President,
Senior Young Farmers of Victoria,
Manks Road,
FIVE WAYS. (Via Cranbourne) VICTORIA.

K.V. Topfer,
State Supervisor,
Junior Farmers' Federation of Tasmania,
Box 445 E, G.P.O.,
HOBART. TASMANIA.

H W Burbury,
State President,
Junior Farmers' Federation of Tasmania,
YORK PLAINS. TASMANIA.

G.L.R. Maidment,
State President,
Western Australian Junior Farmers' Movement,
156, Hay Street,
SUBIACO. WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

J. Park,
State Organiser,
Queensland Junior Farmers' Organisation,
C/- Box 33, P.O.,
NORTH QUAY. BRISBANE. QUEENSLAND.

W. R. Creber,
Chairman, State Council,
Queensland Junior Farmers' Organisation,
Box 33, P.O.,
NORTH QUAY. BRISBANE. QUEENSLAND.

A. Hooper,
Senior Adviser, Rural Youth,
Department of Agriculture,
Gawler Place,
ADELAIDE. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ERIC Clearinghouse
OCT 14 1968
on Adult Education